

Amendments To The Claims:

1-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Previously presented) A stent in the form of a thin-walled, cylindrical tube with a longitudinal axis, the stent comprising:

 a multiplicity of interior circumferential sets of strut members and one end circumferential set of strut members at each of the two longitudinal ends of the stent;

 each interior circumferential set of strut members including at least one connected strut member consisting of a long diagonal section having a longitudinal length fixedly attached to a connected curved section, each connected curved section being joined by means of a longitudinal connecting link to one connected curved section of an adjacent circumferential set of strut members and all connecting links that connect adjacent circumferential sets of strut members are connected at a connected curved section, each interior set of strut members also including at least one unconnected strut member consisting of a short diagonal section having a longitudinal length fixedly joined to an unconnected curved section.

39. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38 wherein the longitudinal connecting link is straight.

40. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 38 wherein the longitudinal connecting link is an undulating, flexible, longitudinal connecting link.

41. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 40 wherein the place where each flexible longitudinal connecting link is joined to the interior set of strut members is near the connecting line where a connected curved section is joined to a diagonal section.

42. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38 wherein there are three longitudinal connecting links that join each adjacent pair of circumferential sets of strut members.

43. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38 wherein there are five longitudinal connecting links that join each adjacent pair of circumferential sets of strut members.

44. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 38 wherein the total longitudinal length in the longitudinal direction of each end circumferential set of strut members is shorter than the longitudinal length in the longitudinal direction of each interior circumferential set of strut

members.

45. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38 wherein the metal from which the stent is formed in stainless steel.

46. (Previously Presented) The stent of claim 38 wherein the metal from which the stent is formed is tantalum.

47. (Withdrawn) A stent in the form of a thin-walled, cylindrical tube with a longitudinal axis, the stent comprising:

a multiplicity of interior circumferential sets of strut members and one end circumferential set of strut members at each of the two longitudinal ends of the stent;

each interior circumferential set of strut members including at least one connected strut member consisting of a long diagonal section having a longitudinal length fixedly attached to a connected curved section, each connected curved section of an adjacent means of a longitudinal connecting link to one connected curved section of an adjacent circumferential set of strut members; each interior set of strut members also including at least one unconnected strut member consisting of a short diagonal section having a longitudinal length fixedly joined to an unconnected curved section; and

the stent being further characterized by having the length of each diagonal section being longer than the length of each short diagonal section and for each interior circumferential set of strut members, the number of connected curved sections being equal to the number of unconnected curved sections.

48. (Withdrawn) A stent in the form of a thin-walled, cylindrical tube with a longitudinal axis, the stent comprising:

a multiplicity of interior circumferential sets of strut members and one end circumferential set of strut members at each of the two longitudinal ends of the stent;

each interior circumferential set of strut members including at least one connected strut member consisting of a long diagonal section having a longitudinal length fixedly attached to a connected curved section, each connected curved section being joined by means of a longitudinal connecting link to one connected curved section of an adjacent circumferential set of strut members and all connecting links that connect adjacent circumferential sets of strut members are connected at a connected curved section; each interior set of strut members also including at

least one unconnected strut member consisting of a short diagonal section having a longitudinal length fixedly joined to an unconnected curved section; and

the stent being further characterized by having the length of each long diagonal section being longer than the length of each short diagonal section, so that the unconnected strut members have a decreased tendency for flaring outward as the stent is advanced though a curved vessel.

49. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 48 wherein the longitudinal connecting link is straight.

50. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 48 wherein the longitudinal connecting link is an undulating, flexible, longitudinal connecting link.

51. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 50 wherein the place where each flexible longitudinal connecting link is joined to the interior set of strut members is near the connecting line where a connected curved section is joined to a diagonal section.

52. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 48 wherein there are three longitudinal connecting links that join each adjacent pair of circumferential sets of strut members.

53. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 48 wherein there are five longitudinal connecting links that join each adjacent pair of circumferential sets of strut members.

54. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 48 wherein the total longitudinal length in the longitudinal direction of each end circumferential set of strut members is shorter than the longitudinal length in the longitudinal direction of each interior circumferential set of strut members.

55. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 48 wherein the metal from which the stent is formed is stainless steel.

56. (Withdrawn) The stent of claim 48 wherein the metal from which the stent is formed is tantalum.

57. (New) The stent of claim 38, wherein each interior circumferential set of strut members has fewer connected curved sections than unconnected curved sections.

58. (New) A cylindrical expandable stent comprising:

a plurality of undulating band-like elements, each band-like element having alternating peaks and troughs aligned on a common longitudinal axis to define a generally tubular

stent body, the peaks and troughs taking a generally longitudinal direction along the cylinder,

wherein the peaks have an amplitude, the peaks of each band-like element comprising a first amplitude and a second amplitude, the first amplitude being less than the second amplitude; and

a plurality of interconnecting elements each interconnecting element having a first end and a second end, the first and second ends extending from adjacent band-like elements, the first and second ends displaced circumferentially along the stent.

59. (New) The stent of claim 58, wherein peaks of the same amplitude are grouped together within a band-like element.

60. (New) The stent of claim 59, wherein peaks having the first amplitude on a first band-like element are circumferentially offset from peaks having the first amplitude on a second band-like element.

61. (New) The stent of claim 58, wherein each of the plurality of band-like elements has a first region having a first wavelength and a second region having a second wavelength, wherein the first wavelength is less than the second wavelength.

62. (New) The stent of claim 61, wherein the first region comprises peaks having the first amplitude.

63. (New) The stent of claim 58 wherein each of the plurality of interconnecting elements is substantially straight.

64. (New) The stent of claim 64, wherein the plurality of interconnecting elements is comprised of first interconnecting elements having a first length and second interconnecting elements having a second length, wherein the first length is longer than the second length.

65. (New) The stent of claim 64, wherein interconnecting elements having a first length

extend from the peaks having the first amplitude on a band-like element to a trough on an adjacent band-like element.